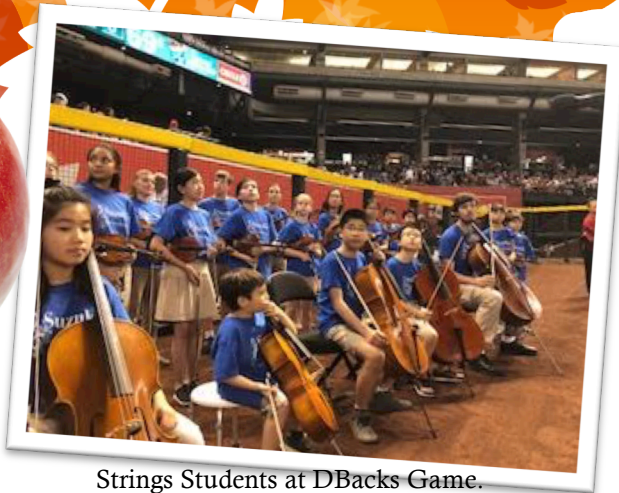




# Arizona Suzuki Association



Strings Students at DBacks Game.

## Refill Your Cup

By Jodie St. Clair, Guest Suzuki Violin Teacher  
and Parent

As a teacher and a parent, motivating my students is always at the front of my mind. I'm always working toward finding the balance between what I want them to learn and helping them spark their own inspiration. For teachers and parents, our role is to cultivate the environment so that it's ripe for learning, find ways to grow the intrinsic value of playing, and ultimately give the student ownership over their musical journey.

### Save the Date!

September 22

ASA Grand Canyon Celebration Concert

**Registration Deadline August 22!**

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Claire at Suzuki Voice Gala concert- the older teach the younger!

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Motivation isn't just important for our kids though. As the person facilitating our children's music education, maintaining parent motivation is essential too. As with everything in parenting, it's easy to get caught up in our children and forget about ourselves. If we are thinking long-term about playing an instrument, we have to find ways to refill our own cup of motivation.

This is something that families not doing music typically don't understand. I've heard it all. From "Suzuki... that's just for tiger moms right?", to "I wonder if Sally would like that? How long are lessons? Once a week? That's not much!" Sometimes it's hard to relate what kind of work goes into doing music beyond the lesson. So I'm here to give you suggestions on what to do when you wonder if music is worth it, because it is:

**1) Revisit your original vision.** Reviewing why you started in the first place is reinvigorating. Was it to spend more time together and connect through music? Is music education part of your family's priorities? I write big-picture intentions in the front of my family's practice notebook. That helps me revisit them whenever my motivation wanes.

**2) Attend studio parent nights and group class.** Your teacher's studio is a community. Connect with the families in that community. They all go through the same struggles (even if it doesn't look like it). Other music parents know the same ups and downs. Rely on each other for support, advice, tips, and ideas.

**3) Find community online.** Great resources abound for parents to connect with other parents online. Facebook has several supportive, helpful discussion groups for parents. Again, everyone faces similar struggles, so you can go online for great tips and real advice from fellow parents and other teachers. Not a Facebook person? There are blogs, videos, and other resources out there too.

**4) Sign up for Parents as Partners through the Suzuki Association of Americas.** Each Suzuki family is part of a worldwide community. At the most recent international conference in Japan, it was amazing to see a gym floor packed with kids from all over the world. They didn't always share a spoken language, but as players and students they all shared the language of music. Each year our Suzuki Association does Parents as Partners, and it's a fantastic resource.

Music teaches things like work ethic, practice and study skills, empathy, and musicality, but most importantly, music teaches connection. By reconnecting with your motivation, you will be all the more able to help your child maintain their own.

**About Jodie St. Clair**

**Jodie St. Clair** is the founder and director of the Eugene Suzuki Music Academy (ESMA) in Eugene, Oregon, where she teaches violin and SECE. She has a Bachelors of Music Performance in Violin from Northern Arizona University (NAU) and received long-term training at NAU and the University of Oregon. She has received training from Dr. Louise Scott, Karin Hallberg, Judy W. Bossuat-Gallic, Allen Lieb, Kathleen Spring, Dr. Susan Baer, Dorothy Jones, and Sharon Jones. After founding ESMA in 2009, Jodie began teaching SECE in 2010. In 2013, Jodie taught SECE at the 16th Suzuki Method World Convention in Matsumoto, Japan. She recently has started making videos to help parents with their practice at **Adventures in Suzuki Parenting**. Find more at [suzukiparenting.com](http://suzukiparenting.com)

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ARIZONA SUZUKI ASSOCIATION GRAND CANYON  
CELEBRATION CONCERT  
SHRINE OF THE AGES BUILDING



The Arizona Suzuki Association is sponsoring a concert at the Shrine of the Ages on the grounds of the (south) Grand Canyon on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**. It is a National Park day so there is no charge to enter the park. Be sure to register for this event on the [azsuzuki.org](http://azsuzuki.org) website as there is a limit of 250 people allowed in the building which includes student performers, parents, siblings, guests and teachers.

**INFORMATION for the September 22, Saturday performance.**

- Leave plenty of time to drive to the Grand Canyon, since it is a free National Park Day, there will be many people at the park.
  - After entering the park, follow the South Entrance Road the entire way.(That corresponds with signage, too.) If you follow signs to 'Village', as you get closer, there will be a sign or two that states 'Shrine of Ages'. You only have to make one turn - into the Shrine of Ages parking lot See attached map. More information is on the website: [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)
  - Please review and/or learn all of the pieces listed on the AZSuzuki.org website by memory. Two additional songs, Wishing and I Love You Arizona will be performed (these pieces are not in the Suzuki Books). Music will be emailed as a PDF file. If you have questions which part to learn or do not get music, please contact Laura at [arizonasuzuki@gmail.com](mailto:arizonasuzuki@gmail.com).
  - If you need a stand, you must bring your own.
  - All cellists and guitarists must bring their own chair, if a smaller chair is needed.
  - Cellists - remember your rock stop
  - Extra strings in your case is always a good idea, in case one breaks
  - Doors to the Shrine of the Ages Chapel will open at 12:30 pm
  - Performance is at 1:00 pm
  - T-Shirts will be available as you enter the building, please change into them for the concert.
  - Please have lunch before you arrive for the performance
  - Stay hydrated - you may not be used to the higher elevation
  - If it is a hot day, please don't leave your instruments in the car
- Have a wonderful day meeting and performing with Suzuki students across the state!





## Upcoming Events

### Teacher Workshop with Winifred Crock

Scheduled for **January 20-21, 2019** in Phoenix. Winifred will share her ideas and experiences with Suzuki in the Schools. Watch the ASA website for more info coming this fall.

### Every Child Can

**Every Child Can! (ECC)** will be offered on **February 2, 2019 (Saturday)** with SAA teacher trainer Alice Vierra. ECC is an introduction to Dr. Suzuki's philosophy and its application to Suzuki education. For parents, teachers, prospective teachers and others, this course provides an inspiring, in-depth look at the Suzuki approach to teaching and learning. This course is the pre-requisite course for those who wish to start Suzuki training in any instrument. Registration and more info will be available at the [azsuzuki.org](http://azsuzuki.org) this Fall.



## News around the State

ASA has a new Facebook Page! This is the place to share your pictures, articles, and events of interest for the Arizona Suzuki Community. Please "Like" our new page and share with your friends!!!

*Membership renewal reminder:* ASA Membership renewals for the 2018-19 year are due now. Please renew or join today for only \$10 per year at [azsuzuki.org](http://azsuzuki.org).

### Northern Arizona NAU Suzuki events:

- Fall semester group classes begin Sept 13
- Fall performances include Cornucopia in Flagstaff on September 29 and at the United Way Craft Fair on November 17

### Suzuki Second Saturdays:

#### Suzuki Violin and Cello Group Classes 2018-2019

Hosted by the Valley of the Sun Suzuki Association

- Who: Suzuki violin and cello students Bk 1-4
- What: Each class will include... Games and Activities based on Suzuki Repertoire, a student recital and a play down of review songs
- When: 9am-10:15am every second Saturday, 2018 Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, 2019 Jan, Feb, March, April
- Where: Center for Educational Excellence, 1700 E Elliot Rd Tempe, AZ 85284
- More info at [valleysuzuki.org](http://valleysuzuki.org)



On Field performance

### "O say, can you see. . ."

This past June, almost 50 Suzuki students and teachers came together to perform the National Anthem at the Diamondbacks vs. Mets baseball game. With Eunice Elie's fantastic arrangement, violins, cellos, violas, and voices came together and lead a full stadium in the Star Spangled Banner. Their professionalism and musicality gave a great impression of Suzuki in Arizona. This was definitely a HOME RUN!



Loretta, Teresa, and Sarah



# Vibrato Breakdown

By Megyn Neff, ASA Board Member and Violin Teacher

Vibrato is easily one of the most characteristic techniques of string playing. Once a student has developed a healthy vibrato, it is like adding a new primary color to their palette of expression and artistry, opening up their tone immensely. However, it's not the most natural motion to learn, and can be tricky to teach—even a tricky topic to write about. Pedagogues have long put their own fingerprint on how vibrato should be taught. When finding your own way to teach any technique, I find it helpful to revisit the basics. What exactly is vibrato? What are we physically looking for in its development? A disclaimer: I am a violinist, so I apologize in advance to my lower strings friends, but hopefully you will find some concepts that cross over. Let's try and keep it simple. Vibrato is a wavering of pitch used to enrich and intensify the tone of a voice or instrument. The pitch wavers slightly below, above, or a combination of both directions from the original pitch. It can vary in speed, amplitude, and finger placement/weight. Feeling manageable so far, I hope!

Physically, vibrato should be one movement, wavering away from the original pitch and then a natural impulse back toward it. So, the left hand should be free and feel a centered balance in order for the vibrato's natural impulse to occur. When the hand is free and balanced, the impulse can initiate from the arm, wrist, or hand, and all will produce different colors of vibrato. Many teachers' prerequisite vibrato with having the student maintain a balanced posture, relaxed left thumb and hand, as well as ensuring the ability to play with secure intonation and full tone. Vibrato is often introduced in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> position for balance and stability in the left hand, so shifting may also be introduced before, or alongside, vibrato exercises.

Vibrato is first mentioned at the beginning of Suzuki Book 4 (violin), stating that students should begin learning vibrato during the Vivaldi A minor Concerto. Most teachers I know introduce it somewhere between the middle of Book 2 and Book 4, once a good foundation has settled in. Most tend not to wait much beyond Book 4, as vibrato is fundamental in the development of tone. As always, it's important to take into account the student's age, maturity level, and foundation in other techniques.

Common introductory exercises focus on freeing the arm, wrist, and hand with fingerboard slides and/or shaking an egg shaker. Finding the center of balance in the left hand is typically followed with trills or a slowed-down rocking finger motion in a higher position that gradually increase in speed. There are many wonderful and time-tested exercises, but I will offer a few more tips that I've found helpful with an already-developing vibrato, starting with a favorite exercise from Simon Fischer's Basics.

Relaxation Exercise): Begin with 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on a very flat F-natural in 3<sup>rd</sup> position, almost an E-natural. Start on the tip of the finger and roll the finger back toward the pad while releasing the string, until the finger pad is touching the harmonic on E-natural. Release at the nail joint in a rolling-back action, not a slide, using a natural arm or wrist vibrato motion. Then, roll the finger up to the fingertip until the string is stopped on the flat F-natural again. Set the metronome to 100 and play the flat F-natural to E as a dotted rhythm with four beats per bow.

Review: Learn Twinkle in 3<sup>rd</sup> position for lots of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger vibrato opportunities. "Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus" from Violin Book 2 is also a great review piece for adding vibrato.

Listening: Listen to different artists play the same piece. Have your student describe the different types of vibrato. How are they the same? How are they different? Aid them with a sample word set like fast, slow, wide, narrow, intense, relaxed, sweet, electric, mournful, etc., and have them come up with some of their own.

Breaking down exactly what vibrato is can help guide one's own approach to teaching it, as well as help troubleshoot vibrato that is still developing. It is a technique that takes time to develop and needs not be rushed, so remember to breathe and enjoy the process.

## Source List

1. Fischer, Simon. *Basics: 300 Exercises and Practice Routines for the Violin*. London: Peters Edition Limited, 1997.
2. Galamian, Ivan. *Principles of Violin Playing & Teaching*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1962.
3. "Vibrato." In *The Oxford Companion to Music*, ed. Alison

In July, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Suzuki Voice was celebrated at eh 14<sup>th</sup> Songs for Sharing conference in Vantaa, Finland. There were over 100 participants, including 16 Suzuki Voice teachers from around the world.

The USA had 3 teachers and 7 students attending, including Suzuki Voice teacher Kari Weldon from Arizona along wither her 3 students Claire, Sofia, and Daniel. With Suzuki voice creator Dr. Päivi Kukkamäki as well as 4 other Suzuki voice teacher trainers, it was a fantastic week of singing, learning, and celebrating each other's cultures in the happy environment encouraged by Dr. Suzuki.

"Beautiful tone, beautiful heart"—Dr. Suzuki



Suzuki Voice Gala concert



Teachers and students at Suzuki Voice Conference in Finland



Suzuki teachers and students at DBacks game!



## Arizona Suzuki Association

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